

Remarks

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present U.S. Patent application as amended herein. Applicant respectfully requests that claims 1, 12, and 19-21 be canceled without prejudice. Claims 2, 8, 13, 22, and 26 are amended herein. Applicant present new claims 27-28, which depend from claim 2. Claims 11 and 14-18 have been withdrawn. Therefore, claims 2-10, 13 and 22-28 are pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant acknowledges that as presently advised, claims 2-7 and 22-25 have been found to be allowable, but are objected to as dependent upon rejected base claims. Applicant has elected to rewrite claims 2 and 22 in independent form, incorporating the limitations of claims 1 and 21, from which they depend, respectively. Claims 3-7 depend from claim 2, and claims 23-25 depend from claim 22. Therefore, Applicant submits that claims 2-7 and 22-25 as amended herein should be in condition for allowance.

Objection to the Specification

The specification was objected to for informalities. Specifically the numerical reference "112" on page 12, line 13 should be --113--, and the numerical reference "403" was not found in the figures. Please find corrections to the appropriate paragraphs in the Amendments to the Specification section above. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that these objections have been overcome.

Objections to the Drawings

The drawings were objected to as not showing every feature of the claimed invention. Specifically, the Office Action states that a housing that is generally egg-shaped as recited in claim 12 is not found in the figures. Applicant has elected to cancel claim 12; therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that this objection is moot.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 19-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,554,191 issued to Yoneya (Yoneya). Applicant has elected to cancel these claims; therefore, rejection of these claims is moot.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 8-10, 12-13, 21, and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoneya in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,846,598 issued to Livits (Livits). Applicant has elected to cancel claims 1, 12, and 21; therefore, rejection of these claims is moot. Furthermore, Applicant has amended claims 8 and 26 to depend from claims 2 and 22, respectively. Claims 2 and 22 were rejected as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but should be allowable if rewritten in independent form. As discussed above, Applicant has rewritten these claims accordingly and submits that they should be found allowable as amended herein. Because dependent claims necessarily include the limitations of the claims from which they depend, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 8 and 26 should be allowable for at least the reasons claims 2 and 22 are allowable. Furthermore, claims 9-10 depend from claim 8, and should likewise be

allowable for at least the reasons claim 8 is allowable. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections have been overcome.

New Claims 27-28

Applicant presents herein new claims 27-28, which depend from claim 2.

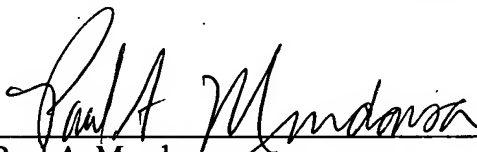
Applicant respectfully submits that because claims 27-28 depend from an allowable base claim, claims 27-28 should be allowable for at least the reasons independent claim 2 is allowable.

Conclusion

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if such contact would further the examination of the present application. Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges to our Deposit Account number 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN, LLP

Date: FEB 11, 2004



Paul A. Mendonsa
Reg. No. 42,879

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026
(503) 684-6200

PAM/VHA